

SC BRIEFING

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7 SEPTEMBER 1955

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CYPRUS TALKS END

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The London conference on the Cyprus question has ended in complete disagreement.

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II. The immediate results of the London conference's failure are likely to be:

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A. Further deterioration in Greek-Turkish relations, with increasingly bitter mutual recriminations and a lessening of cooperation in NATO and the Balkan alliance.

1. The violent Turk outbreaks on 6 September in Istanbul and Izmir have already illustrated the sharp decline of Greek-Turkish friendship. Further manifestations may be expected.

B. Renewed violence on Cyprus, where the influence of Nationalist extremists will be strengthened.

1. Danger to US property and interests on the island from terrorist attacks may become acute.

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C. Intensive diplomatic campaigns by Greece, Turkey and Britain in preparation for a bitter Cyprus debate at the session of the UN General Assembly, starting 20 September.

III. Failure of the conference will also be a serious blow to American prestige in Greece, because the Greeks regard the US as partly responsible for the outcome,

A. With a reduction of US influence, the small but growing tendency towards neutralism in Greece can be expected to gain new strength.

IV. Finally, the failure will have a direct impact on the present Greek government.

A. Failure of the Greeks to win any real concessions will probably weaken the Rally government still further.

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B. In consequence, the King has ordered that the government at present is leaderless, may appoint a provisional prime minister and call for new general elections.

1. The King believes that ailing Prime Minister Papagos might now take this opportunity to resign "as a hero who has done his best."

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